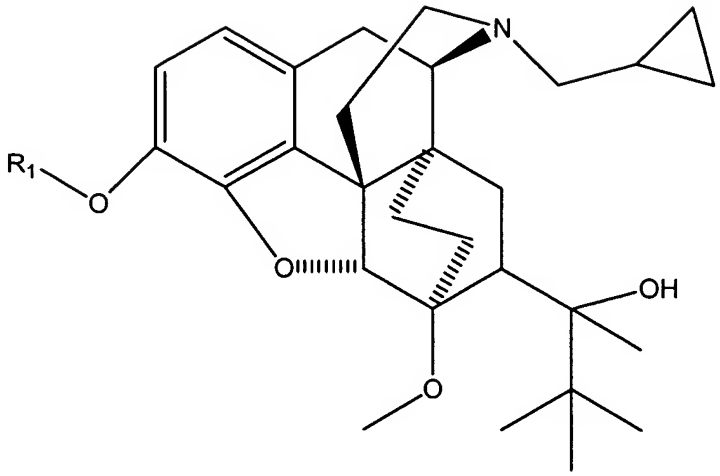
208.1007US

We claim:

1. A compound of Formula I



(I)

wherein R_1 is a moiety selected from the group consisting of alkylcarbonyl, alkenylcarbonyl arylcarbonyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl and heteroaryloxycarbonyl moieties;

wherein the alkyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of unsubstituted or substituted, straight-chain and branched-chain and cyclic alkyl moieties have 1-20 carbon atoms;

wherein the alkenyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of unsubstituted and substituted, straight-chain and branched-chain and cyclic alkenyl moieties have 2-20 carbon atoms;

wherein the aryl moiety is selected from the group consisting of unsubstituted and substituted phenyl, and phenalkyl moieties;

wherein the alkyl moiety contains 1-3 carbon atoms;

wherein the phenyl moiety is unsubstituted or substituted;

wherein the heteroaryl moiety is an aromatic 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or two heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, and

sulfur; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The compound according to claim 1, wherein said straight-chain alkyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, hexyl, heptyl, octyl, dodecyl, and palmityl;

wherein said straight-chain alkyl moiety is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, hydroxy, alkoxy(alkoxy)x, hydroxyalkoxy(alkoxy)x, amino, mono- and dialkylamino, nitro, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, and cyano, wherein x is an integer from 0 to 3 and the alkoxy moiety contains from 1 to 5 carbon atoms.

3. The compound according to claim 1, wherein said branched-chain alkyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl, sec-butyl, t-butyl, 2-methylbutyl, 2-pentyl, and 3-pentyl;

wherein said branched-chain alkyl moiety is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, hydroxy, alkoxy(alkoxy)x, hydroxyalkoxy(alkoxy)x, amino, mono- and dialkylamino, nitro, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, and cyano, wherein x is an integer from 0 to 3 and the alkoxy moiety contains from 1 to 5 carbon atoms.

4. The compound according to claim 1, wherein said cyclic alkyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl;

wherein said cyclic alkyl moiety is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, hydroxy, alkoxy(alkoxy)x, hydroxyalkoxy(alkoxy)x, amino, mono- and dialkylamino, nitro, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, and cyano, wherein x is an integer from 0 to 3 and the alkoxy moiety contains from 1 to 5 carbon atoms.

5. The compound according to claim 1, wherein said alkenyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of vinyl (ethenyl), 1-propenyl, i-butenyl, pentenyl, hexenyl, n-decenyl and c-pentenyl;

wherein said alkenyl moiety is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, hydroxy, alkoxy(alkoxy)x, hydroxyalkoxy(alkoxy)x, amino, mono- and dialkylamino, nitro, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, and cyano, wherein x is an integer from 0 to 3 and the alkoxy moiety contains from 1 to 5 carbon atoms.

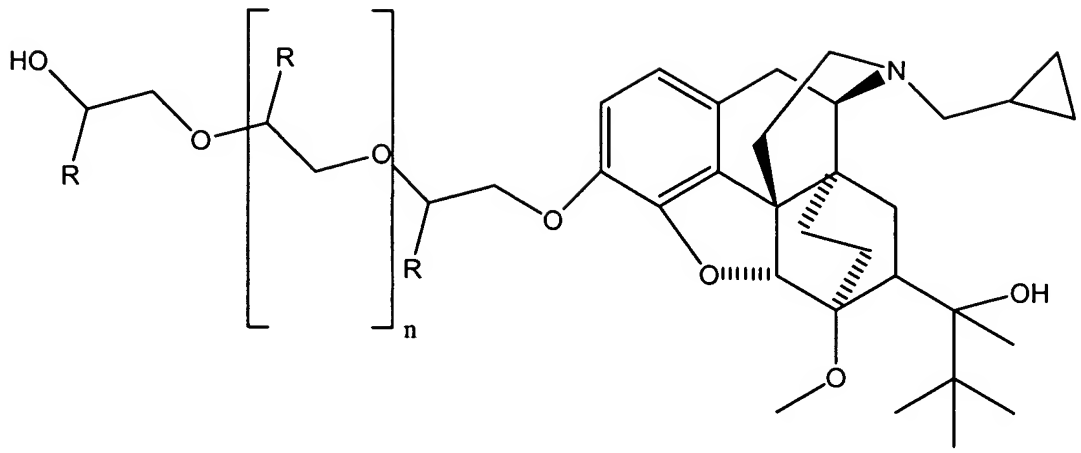
6. The compound according to claim 1, wherein said phenalkyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of benzyl, phenethyl and phenylpropyl;

wherein the phenyl moiety is optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, halo, amino, mono- and dialkylamino, nitro, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl and cyano.

7. The compound according to claim 1, wherein said heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of pyridinyl, thienyl and imidazolyl.

8. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is selected from group consisting of acetyl; propionyl; butyryl; valeryl; hexanoyl; isobutyryl ; methoxyacetyl; ethoxyacetyl; benzoyl; nicotinoyl; methoxycarbonyl; ethoxycarbonyl; propoxycarbonyl; butoxycarbonyl; hexyloxycarbonyl; octyloxycarbonyl; and, imidazolylcarbonyl.

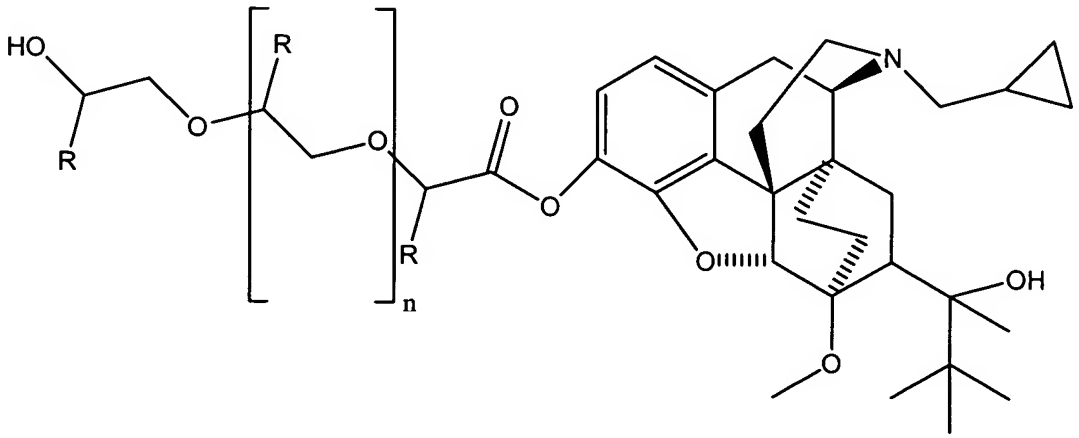
9. A compound of Formula II:



(II)

wherein n is an integer from 0 to 3 and each R is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl and ethyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. A compound of Formula III:



(III)

wherein n is an integer from 0 to 3 and each R is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl and ethyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any of claims 1-10 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11, wherein said composition is in a form suitable for topical application selected from the group consisting of a transdermal patch, gauze, compress, ointment, cream, lotion, paste, gel, spray, aerosol and oil.

13. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12, wherein said form suitable for topical application is a transdermal patch.

14. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 11 in a dosage form selected from the group consisting of oral, sublingual, implantable, intranasal, inhalable and parenteral dosage forms.

15. A method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising combining a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient with a compound of any of claims 1-10.

16. A method for the treatment of pain in a patient in need thereof comprising:
applying to the skin of the patient an effective amount of a compound of any of claims 1-10.